

John's Greek Orthodox Church and Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. These institutions provide a multitude of community services and add to the rich diversity of the area.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Greece and those of Greek ancestry around the world in celebrating Greek Independence Day. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2202, IMMIGRATION IN
THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT
OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Chabot-Conyers amendment to the Immigration Act of 1995 (H.R. 2202). What we have before us today is a bill that is discriminatory and ill-conceived.

This bill proposes to create a national data system that must be used by all employers to verify the identity and employment eligibility of every person hired in the United States. The bill would establish a massive and costly data retrieval system to access information from existing Government databases at the Social Security Administration and the INS.

This 1-800-BIG BROTHER system would compel employers to have each new hire approved by the Federal Government. This is a costly, intrusive, and ineffective measure.

To begin with, the system would rely on highly flawed Government data. The INS database slated for use in this system has missing or incorrect information 28 percent of the time, while the Social Security Administration has faulty data 17 percent of the time. In previous pilot projects run by the INS and SSA, over 50 percent of the people who the systems could not verify were, in fact, legally authorized workers.

With tens of millions of Americans entering the job market each year, even an almost impossible low 1 percent error rate could still cause thousands of Americans to be wrongly denied work each year. Consequently, millions of American workers are at risk because of seriously flawed Government data.

I am proud to represent El Paso, whose 650,000 citizens, residents, and children of immigrants have successfully integrated bilingualism and biculturalism into their education system, health care facilities, and economy. El Paso's population is 70 percent Hispanic. If passed, this bill will have a devastating effect on my district by entering Big Brother into their daily lives.

Imagine how this Big Brother system would affect the citizens of El Paso. Hundreds of thousands of El Pasoans could be at the mercy of this faulty system.

People whose appearance, accent or family background make them seem foreign will be screened out of jobs as employers attempt to avoid the inevitable problems which the verification process will cause. The verification system will also be easily susceptible to abuse by merchants and business people who use the worker registry as a powerful tool to har-

ass, and privately check up on whoever they choose, for other purposes.

In wake of the Proposition 187, merchants in California began requesting immigration documents from Latino and Asian customers in restaurants and banks.

I believe the recent xenophobic rhetoric being used by some in the Republican Party is a thinly veiled attempt to blame national problems on newcomers or those who are of a different ethnicity than the majority. These efforts contribute to an atmosphere of hostility. I find it dangerous and counterproductive to start a process which would lead only to spiraling harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

Further, the system is imperfect and has massive loopholes. False documents with accurate numbers will enable undocumented workers to avoid detection and employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers under the table will continue to do so despite the system.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
TRANSPORTATION BILL

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of small business owners who find themselves caught up in an expensive regulatory maze left by amendments to the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act passed in 1990. This act greatly broadened the Secretary of Transportation's authority to regulate the transportation of hazardous materials. Though it was intended for large carriers of toxic materials which can pose a risk to public health or safety, it has spilled over and poisoned the small business man instead.

One study, which focused on the pest control industry, found that compliance of these rules and regulations cost the industry \$135 million annually. These costs arise from truly burdensome Federal regulations which require pest control operators and employees to keep complex documents and markings for shipping and containers on a daily basis. And all of this is for small quantities of relatively benign materials, most of which are nearly identical to pest control products which we can all buy in home supply and garden stores—like Raid, for example.

The legislation I have developed will relieve these burdens while maintaining the same high standards for safety. My bill simply amends the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act by providing an exemption for small commercial vehicles which are transporting common "Raid" like materials which do not pose a risk to public health or safety.

Specifically, a vehicle with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds or less will be exempted unless it is transporting a material, such as a fumigant, which the Secretary of Transportation deems to require placarding.

Let us keep small business healthy. With this bill we can stop poisoning the small business man with unneeded regulations that hurt both him and us. I hope you will join myself and my colleagues who have cosponsored this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF J.C. COLLINS

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. J.C. Collins of Bethalto, IL. Mr. Collins has been chosen as the 1995 Inductee of the National Mens' Ministries Christian Hall of Excellence, by the national Assemblies of God denominational headquarters in Springfield, MO. This honor is equivalent to a national layman of the year award for the Assemblies of God.

Mr. Collins was chosen for this award from among the 50 State inductees of the State Assemblies of God. He had earlier been named the Illinois State Inductee by the State Assemblies of God denominational headquarters in Carlinville, IL.

He has faithfully served his church, the First Assembly of God in Cottage Hills, IL, as a deacon, assistant Sunday school superintendent, and youth leader. He has been a Sunday school teacher for 30 years. He has supervised almost all of the church's construction projects, including the church itself, the houses, and all the buildings that belong to the church.

He has been active for decades with Gideons International, spreading the Gospel and passing out Bibles in schools, hospitals, hotels, and colleges.

When Mr. Collins retired in 1988 from his work as a construction supervisor, after 41 years at Laclede Steel Co. in Alton, IL, he prayed for the opportunity to make 10 trips overseas to help build churches. Since then he has made 11 trips, including Belgium, the former Czechoslovakia, Lesotho, Mexico, Germany, and the former East Germany when the Berlin Wall was coming down. He is now planning trips to Belgium and El Salvador.

J.C. Collins was born in Marshall County, KY, on February 8, 1926. He entered the U.S. Armed Forces when he was 17 years old, and he was promoted to staff sergeant by the time he was 18. During his military service he worked on researching German V-2 rockets on the White Sands Proving Ground.

Mr. Collins married his lovely wife, Ruby Scott, on December 9, 1944, in Mineral Wells, TX. They are blessed with two daughters, Wanda Collins Burgund and Patricia Collins Moran, and four grandchildren, Brian Hendricks, Stephanie Burgund Krienitz, Rachel Moran, and Alicia Moran. Following their father's and grandfather's strong and positive spiritual influence, all of Mr. Collins' children and grandchildren are active in their local churches.

I congratulate Mr. J.C. Collins and wish him and his family the very best in the future.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DICK ZIMMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, on March 25, 1821, the Greek people began a long and courageous struggle to free themselves from